I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Inland Waterways

Restrictions on vessels plying in Godavari river.

* 1248 *Q.*—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 891 answered on 29th November 1928 regarding restrictions on vessels plying in Godavari river—

(*a*) whether the Government have passed any orders upon the report referred to in clause (*a*) of the answer; and

(*b*) if so, whether the same would be placed on the Council table?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) It has been decided to apply the Madras Canals and Public Ferries Act, 1890, to the Godavari river within Madras limits and the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) has been asked to submit draft notifications.

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu:—"May I take it, Sir, that the Government intends to apply the Act with reference to the bed of the river both above and below the anicut?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"That will be a matter for consideration when we get the draft notification."

Irrigation

Discharge of water of the new sluice constructed in the southern tank of the Nandyal tanks.

* 1249 *Q.*—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the capacity for discharge of water of the new sluice constructed in the southern tank of the Nandyal tanks is;

(*b*) what the capacity was of the sluice which the new sluice has displaced;

(*c*) what the acreage is under the new sluice;

(*d*) what the acreage was under the sluice displaced;

(*e*) what the difference is in the levels between the old sluice and the new; and

(*f*) whether from the old sluice water would be flowing for over a month after the southern tank had ceased to be of use for irrigation?

A.—(*a*) to (*f*) A report has been called for from the Chief Engineer (Irrigation).

Repair and revival of the old Upputeru channel.

* 1250 *Q.*—Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was an old drainage channel parallel to Upputeru carrying all the drainage water of the Kaikalur taluk (Kistna district) into the sea;

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(*b*) whether that old channel has been abandoned by the Government and whether as a result it has fallen into disuse and has also been partly filled up;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that on account of all the drainage channels and also the irrigation channels being made to fall into Upputeru (which is the main drain of Kollair) instead of into that old channel parallel to Upputeru many lands in many of the villages in Kaikalur taluk (Kistna district) are submerged under water in the rainy season every year;

(*d*) whether there have been any proposals by any of the Government Public Works Department Engineers to repair and revive the said old drainage channel to carry again all the drainage water of the taluk;

(*e*) if so, by whom and when; and whether the Government will be pleased to place the whole correspondence on the Council table;

(*f*) whether the Government have passed any final orders on the subject and if so, when and to what effect;

(*g*) whether the Government have considered or have under consideration any scheme for carrying away all the drainage water of the taluk into the sea and thereby save the taluk from submersion in the rainy season; and

(*h*) if so, what it is and when it will be put into execution?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Enquiries do not reveal the existence formerly of any old drainage channel parallel to the Upputeru carrying all the drainage water of the Kaikalur taluk to the sea. In olden days there was no regular system of drainage and irrigation channels in the delta. Small extents of land were being cultivated here and there by the inundation of the Kistna river through the old Pulleru, and the land was drained along the puntas and donkas as best it could. After the present elaborate system of drains and irrigation channels came into existence, most of these old drains fell into disuse.

(*c*) There is no reason to believe that the present day drainage systems are in any way less efficient than those of the past. On the other hand, the works done and being carried out have improved the conditions in the delta. The straight cutting of the Yenamadurru drain in the Godavari Western division and the improvements carried out to it are designed to improve the efficiency of the Upputeru, while the construction of locks and regulators at the heads of the Bandar and Ellore canals will, when the Kistna is in floods, prevent large quantities of water from entering the Eastern delta.

(*d*) & (*e*) Proposals were made in 1916 by Messrs. Lutman and V. T. Srinivasa Ayyangar, the then Superintending and Executive Engineers, to improve certain drains in the Eastern delta.

(*f*) Mr. Howley, the then Chief Engineer (Irrigation), after discussing the proposals with the Superintending Engineer came to the conclusion that they were not necessary.

(*g*) & (*h*) No fresh proposals are under consideration. In times of ordinary floods the existing drains function with reasonable efficiency. To excavate drains to deal with abnormal floods is

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obviously out of the question. Such drains, if excavated to the width required to dispose of maximum floods, would have to be of enormous width and would, during years of ordinary flood conditions, silt up extensively.

Proposed channel from Pedalanka canal.

*1251 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a proposal to dig an irrigation channel from Pedalanka channel above the Bomminampadu regulator on the left side for the irrigation of the dry block of villages situated thereabout in Kaikalur taluk, Kistna district;

(b) whether ryots of Bomminampadu, Vemavarappadu, Korukollu, Venkatapuram, Kalidindi, Pothumarru and other villages in Kaikalur taluk have sent in mahazars to the authorities to dig the said channel and whether they have also offered to pay some contribution for digging expenses; and

(c) whether the said villages were once called 'Project villages' and intended to be irrigated under a branch of the Pedalanka channel but were afterwards denied the facilities of irrigation?

A.—A copy of the Executive Engineer's letter [a], dated 29th December 1928, is placed on the table.

Formation of a high level channel from the Kistna beginning from Mulapadu.

*1252 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) in what stage the investigation as regards the formation of a high level channel from the Kistna beginning from Mulapadu or thereabouts to irrigate portions of Bezwada, Nuzvid and other taluks is;

(b) whether the report received from the Chief Engineer on the subject will be placed on the table of the House;

(c) whether the Government have come to any decision on the action to be taken on the resolution passed in the Legislative Council on 24th January 1928 to appoint a committee to investigate into the scheme; and

(d) if not, why not?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clauses (a) and (b) of question No. 523 at the meeting of the 11th October 1928. It is proposed to provide funds for the gauging staff in the next year's budget.

(b) The Chief Engineer's report was in the form of a note and has already been given in reply to question No. 523.

(c) & (d) As already stated, no conclusion is possible until the results of the proposed gaugings are known.

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 636 infra.